

PENNSYLVANIA PICKINGS.

SOME IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS

Of Interest to Residents in the Keystone State.

WATCHED THE BOY BURN.

THE AWFUL DEATH OF A BRADFORD YOUTH WITNESSED BY A TRAMP, WHO IS CHARGED WITH CAUSING IT.

A tramp, giving his name as Anthony Hanlon or Quinn, took shelter in a small shanty boat on the bank of the Tuna creek, near the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railroad shops, Bradford, used by the small boys in the neighborhood as a play house. A number of boys were playing around and requested the tramp to get out. This enraged the tramp, who seized a pail of kerosene oil and threw it on John Leggett, aged 14. It is alleged that he then set fire to the boy's clothes. Another story is that the oil was ignited by the fire in the shanty boat. At all events Hanlon made no effort to extinguish the flames, but calmly saw the poor little lad burn before his eyes. He then started up the railroad track but was caught by some railroad men and delivered to the authorities, though at first his captors were disposed to lynch him. The clothes were burned off the boy and his body roasted from head to foot. His ears were burned to a crisp and his head resembled a huge piece of cooked meat. After lingering for about four hours death relieved the lad. Great indignation against the tramp prevails.

CROPS AND LIVE STOCK.

SOME STATISTICS FURNISHED BY THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The annual report of Secretary Edge of the state board of agriculture, now being printed, gives the following estimates of the crops for 1902. Wheat, 1,310,000 acres, 35,000,000 bushels; corn, 1,320,000 acres, 42,750,000 bushels; oats, 1,215,000 acres, 29,750,000 bushels; potatoes, 142,000 acres, 11,750,000 bushels; hay, 2,550,000 acres, 2,250,000 tons. The estimated total value of the five crops is \$82,500,000. The estimated number and value of live stock on farms are given as follows: Horses, 610,000, worth \$50,750,000; cows, 940,000, worth \$31,000,000; cattle, 891,000, worth \$19,750,000; sheep, 743,000, worth \$2,900,000; hogs, 1,175,000, worth \$8,250,000. The estimated value of live stock is \$100,000,000. It is estimated that during the year 1901 the farmers of the State purchased 148,000 tons of commercial fertilizers, for which they paid \$5,100,000.

MONONGAHELA CITY'S CELESTIAL.

Monongahela City was crowded with visitors Wednesday. The occasion was the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the town. Just one hundred years ago Joseph Parkinson held an auction sale on a plain of lots which he had laid out. The sale was not very successful, but it gave Williamsport, as Monongahela City was then called a boom. The town was founded, and ever since has been making rapid strides forward. Monongahela City has been called by three different names during the various stages of its progress. First it was Parkinson's landing; then, when the town was laid out Joseph Parkinson changed its name to Williamsport, in honor of his son; and later it was given the name it now bears.

BANK FORBIDERS PLEAD GUILTY.

The four young men who tried to rob the Keystone National Bank of Erie, on October 3, and shot Cashier Kepler, pleaded guilty. John Courtney and C. W. Hawley pleaded guilty to entering with intent to rob, aggravated assault and battery and assault and battery with intent to murder. C. W. Smith and D. T. Evans pleaded guilty to entering with intent to rob and carrying concealed weapons. All have been remanded for sentence. Smith and Evans are from Ulen, N. Y.; the others claim to be from New York City.

FATAL CROSSING ACCIDENT.

Mrs. Stout, aged 70 years, and Mrs. Cole 45 years were struck by a fast express on the Central railroad of New Jersey at Bethlehem Junction. Mrs. Stout was instantly killed and Mrs. Cole so seriously injured she cannot recover.

A CHILD FATALLY BURNED.

A little 4-year-old child of James Fitzgerald, of Jeannette, was perhaps fatally burned by setting fire to its clothing, while playing with matches. The clothes were entirely burned from its body.

STATE TAX VALUATION.

State Treasurer Morrison is sending out his receipts for the personal property tax for 1902. The total valuation of the State is \$391,107,538 31, and increase of over \$15,000,000 as compared with 1901. The tax is 4 mills, or \$2,364,030 23. Three-fourths is returned to the counties.

A FATAL LOGSMEDE.

The first fatal logslide of the season occurred at Driftwood the other day. Andrew McKibben, a native of New Brunswick, was instantly killed, and John Johnson, of the same place, badly hurt. The accident was caused by logs jumping the slide.

At Johnstown, the payment of the annuity to flood orphans was made Monday, when \$20,325 was distributed. Each orphan under 16 years of age was paid \$75.

At Bethlehem, Annie Romig was nearly burned to death by her clothing catching fire from a range.

By striking a cow on the track a B. & O. freight train of 35 cars was wrecked near Uniontown. Twelve cars were demolished and two brakemen painfully hurt.

Judge Hazen, of Butler, has given an order for the removal of "Farmer" Adams, who tried to wreck a train at Enon, from Dixon in an asylum to the Lawrence county jail, as he believes Adams is sane.

Rachel Hiles, a little girl living at Dunbar, Fayette county, was struck by a train and probably fatally injured.

The M. E. church of Bridgeport, Fayette county, was partly destroyed by fire.

The last case of smallpox has been discharged from the New Castle pest house.

William Williams, a Sugarport farmer, bet \$300 on Harrison and of course lost it. He had borrowed the cash and his inability to pay it so preyed upon his mind that he shot himself.

Saturday the boiler in the kindling wood factory at Austin, exploded, killing two employes named Brunson and Rondo. A laborer named Sullivan has not been seen since the explosion, and it is supposed he was blown to atoms.

SOLDIERS' COLUMN

FIRST GUN AT GETTYSBURG.

THE CANNONER THINKS IT USELESS CONTROLLED, AND WANTS TO KNOW WHO FIRED THE LAST SHOT.



I SEE by the papers that the boys are still keeping up the old quarrel as to which of Wadsworth's Brigades—the Iron Brigade or Cutler's—got in action first at Gettysburg the morning of July 1, 1863.

Perhaps the boys of both brigades would accept me or the old man (Capt. Stewart) as arbiter on this point. The battery did not get on the ground until both brigades were fighting for all they were worth, but we certainly had opportunity to see all there was to be seen about the position, and from 10:30 a. m. until 2 o'clock p. m. we witnessed their battle almost like one would look at a grand panorama. After 2:30 in the afternoon we had so much business of our own to attend to that we could not follow their movements, but we were fully conversant with them during the forenoon. The fact that most of our men were from the Iron Brigade did not prevent us from appreciating in the highest degree the grandeur of Cutler's brigade; and I venture to say that, though we had but two or three men in our ranks from that brigade, as against 60 or 70 from the Iron Brigade, Cutler's men took as much interest in our "Old Brass Threshing Machine" (as they used to call us) as any one did, and we always felt quite as well fixed when Cutler's brigade was backing us in battle as we did when the Iron brigade itself was behind us.

So, there can be no partiality on our part.

Now, to get back to the main point, it is a matter of history, easily accessible in the official records, that Cutler's Brigade, the 76th N. Y. in front, had the head of column of Wadsworth's Division, and thereby of the First Corps, when we started for Gettysburg from our bivouac at Marsh Creek that July morning.

The distance was about five and a half miles, and the infantry of Cutler's and the Iron Brigades covered it in about 50 or 55 minutes—certainly within an hour. They marched very rapidly; faster, in fact, than the guns did, because when we got there, about 10 o'clock, both brigades were fighting like lions, and were to all intents and purposes standing off Heth's whole division, about 8,000 strong.

As to the moment of going into action, or firing the first musket, I think that the 76th N. Y. is entitled to claim the credit of it, though the 56th Pa. was close at hand; and the late Capt. Ira N. Burrill, for many years editor of the "Sunday Herald" of Washington, has often endeavored to demonstrate to me that his regiment (56th Pa.) fired the first gun there.

If you will visit the field you will see that Cutler's Brigade kept on up the Emmitsburg road till they came to the lane leading west from that road past the north side of the Lutheran Seminary, when they left obliquely out along that lane, and where it terminated in the narrow pasture just south of the Cashtown road and east of Willoughby's Creek they struck the leading men of Heth's Division; the result of which was, doubtless, the most desperate and bloody collision ever experienced by two formations of troops anywhere on earth.

Even after we got there, which was at least two hours after the first onset, we could see those troops over on the other ridge in our front firing into each other's bosoms at ranges of not more than 30 or 40 yards.

But the Iron Brigade left the Emmitsburg road at a point considerably south of the end of this lane which I have spoken of, and they also left obliquely and got into action south and west of the Seminary about the same time that Cutler's Brigade struck the enemy in the pasture. It must be borne in mind, when speaking of the action of the Iron Brigade there, that the 2nd and 7th Wis., 19th Ind., and 24th Mich. went into action together in regular brigade formation of regimental front extended, while the 6th Wis. obliquely to its right until it became entirely detached from the rest of the brigade and went clear up to the railroad cut, where it struck the advance of Archer's rebel brigade, which, with the help of the 14th Brooklyn, it captured or destroyed. After that the 6th Wis. came down the railroad to our position about 2 o'clock p. m., and with the aid of Big Dick Coulter's 11th Pa., of Robinson's Division, supported us to the end of the first day, and were the last of our infantry to leave the field.

I have taken some pains to locate these positions, because my mother's cousin, Capt. Ambrose Baldwin, commanding consolidated Co. I-K of the 20th N. Y., was killed there about 11 o'clock in the morning, and I have hunted out the spot where he fell.

Col. Rube Dawes, Adj't Ned Brooks, and others of the 6th Wis., claim that they got in first at the outer railroad cut, where they captured Archer. Col. Lucius Fairchild, Capt. Bill Homes, and others of the 2nd Wis., and Gen. Bill Dudley, of the 19th Ind., declared with equal vigor that they were the first to strike the enemy, when they wiped out the 36th N. C. regiment at the fence just this side of the creek (Willoughby's). A singular feature of

this brief but awful combat was that one entire company of the 24th N. C. was completely destroyed by the Iron Brigade at that fence, not one man in it ever afterward reporting for duty, while the 26th N. C., as a whole, was made to suffer the greatest aggregate loss of any regiment in any battle of any war!

The truth of history, though slow, is probably sure, and for that reason some day the human race will learn that the fight made by the old First Corps the first day of Gettysburg was the grandest exhibition of soldierly manhood ever recorded. Camborne at Waterloo said, "The Old Guard dies; it does not surrender!" The First Corps at Gettysburg neither died nor surrendered. Sixty-five out of every 100 men died or were crippled but the other 25 in every hundred were on hand as if they had never experienced any trouble.

Under such circumstances, and with such a history, why should the veterans of the First Corps dispute about the firing of the first gun? It wasn't the first gun of Gettysburg that told the tale; it was the last gun! Let us yield to the claim of the 76th N. Y. as to the first gun, and proceed to inquire who fired the last one. —BUELL, in National Tribune.

SLOW GROWTH OF THE OAK.

Sixty Years Old Before Good Seed Is Produced—Activity of the Roots.

The extreme limit of the age of the oak is not exactly known, says the Ohio State Journal, but sound and living specimens are at least 1,000 years old. The tree thrives best in a deep, tenacious loam with rocks in it. Stagnant water is one of its aversions. It grows better on a comparatively poor sandy soil than on rich ground imperfectly drained. The trunk, at first inclined to be irregular in shape, straightens at maturity into a grand cylindrical shaft.

The oak does not produce good seed until it is more than sixty years old. The acorn is the fruit of the oak; the seed germ is a very small object at the pointed end of the acorn, with the future root uppermost. The acorn drops, and its contents doubtless undergo important molecular and chemical changes while it lies under its winter covering of leaves or snow. In the mild warmth of spring the acorn swells, the little root elongates, emerges from the end of the shell, and no matter what the position of the acorn turns downward. The root penetrates the soil two or three inches before the stalk begins to show itself, and grows upward. The "meat" of the acorn nourishes both root and stalk, and two years may pass before its store of food is entirely exhausted. At the end of a year the young oak has a root twelve to eighteen inches long, with numerous shorter rootlets, the stalk being from six to eight inches high. In this stage it differs from the sapling, and again the sapling differs from the tree. To watch these transformations under the lens is a fascinating occupation.

If an oak could be suspended in the air with all its roots and rootlets perfect and unobscured, the sight would be considered wonderful. The activity of the roots represents a great deal of power. They bore into the soil, and flatten themselves to penetrate a crack in a rock. Invariably the tips turn away from the light. The growing point of a tiny outer root is back of the tip a small distance. The tip is driven in by the force behind it, and searches the soil for the easiest points of entrance. When the tips are destroyed by obstructions, cold, heat, or other causes, a new growth starts in varying directions. The first roots thicken, and become girders to support the tree, no longer feeding it directly, but serving as conduits for the moisture and nourishments gathered by the outer rootlets, which are constantly boring their way into fresh territory. These absorb water charged with soluble earth, salts, sulphates of lime, magnesia and potash, etc., which passes through the larger roots, stems, and branches to the leaves, the laboratory of new growth. An oak tree may have 700,000 leaves, and from June to October evaporate 226 times its own weight of water. Taking account of the new wood growth, "we obtain some idea of the enormous gain of matter and energy from the outside universe which goes on each summer."

Oak timber is not the heaviest, toughest, nor most beautiful, but it combines more good qualities than any other kind. Its fruit is valuable food, and its bark useful in certain industries. An oak pile submerged for 650 years in London bridge came up in sound condition, and there are specimens from the Tower of London which date from the time of William Rufus. To produce a good oak grove requires from 140 to 200 years. It seems a long time to an American, but forestry is a perpetual branch of economics when once established.

In-Breeding. Experiments made demonstrate that in-breeding of swine has done more than its share to spread the hog cholera, debility rendering the animals incapable of withstanding the attacks of the disease, as well as causing them to be more susceptible to it. A breeder who used boars of Berkshire, Poland China, and Essex, found that the disease rarely appeared and the animals more quickly recovered.

Yellow brass may be made to keep its color without appearing varnished by means of a thin varnish of white shellac or a coating of collodion. It will retain its color for a long time without a protective coating of any kind if the finish is sufficiently fine. A light film of gold is the best possible coating for fine brass-work.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT

THE LATEST IN FANCY BOAS.

The list of fancy boas is still growing, the latest addition being one for young girls. It is made of thousands of loops of gros grain ribbon a little wider than that known as "baby," while a still broader strip serves as the foundation and has ends that tie in front. —[New York Advertiser.

SPENT ON SWEET ODORS.

The amount of money the dainty woman expends on sweet odors would support a small family in comfort. There are all manner of fragrant waters and soaps for her bath, all kind of sweet sprays and powders to follow the bath, all sorts and conditions of sachets filled with costly powders scented with the fragrance which flowers exhale, and now that the breath must be perfumed also squanders no end of money on the little capsules that wily druggists concoct for the purpose, and breathes upon your odors that make you fair, with their sweetness. —[New York News.

BOGIES IS OLD AS THE HILLS.

Classical writers inform us that the dames of Greece and Rome derived custom of using cosmetics from the Egyptians. Eastern women of all times have freely indulged in "painting and decorating," and it is probable that also from the Egyptians the Hebrew women learned the habit, which being used by Jezebel on a memorable occasion, has made her name forever proverbial in connection with the subject.

In England the use of rouge as a cosmetic commenced in the days when ladies disfigured themselves by patches of court-plaster stuck on different parts of the face—that is, about the middle of the Sixteenth Century. —[New York World.

JAPANESE PARTIES THE GO.

Coming to the fore are Japanese parties, unique little affairs in which decorations and gowns are closely copied from those of Japan, and refreshments are served by well gotten up "Japs," who pass around dainties, in Japanese guise. The hostess receives her guests in a gorgeous costume which would do credit to the sweetest Japanese modiste, and standing beneath a huge Japanese umbrella. The rooms are adorned with fans, umbrellas, lanterns, crepe paper hangings and curious plants, all of which show at a glance that they are treasures of Japan.

The table is set with Japanese dishes and paper napkins bearing mystical lettering, while tea, sardine sandwiches, sweet biscuits, wafers, fruit, preserves and tinned loaves in the form of odd looking blooms are served in quaint little receptacles. Before leaving every guest is presented with something unique in the way of a souvenir, the originality of this depending upon the ingenuity of the hostess.

A NEW STYLE OF EMBROIDERY.

A new style of embroidery coming into vogue in London is done with colored braids of various widths. These braids are flat, and very narrow and dainty. The widest does not measure more than an eighth of an inch, the narrowest about a sixteenth. They are similar to certain braids used in some kinds of lace-making. For the tea-cloths, buffet-covers, cushion-covers, and doilies decorated with the braid, linen is principally used, though it is said to have an equally good effect on silk and other art cloths. The simplest way of using the braid is in geometric patterns, in simple scrolls, and in conventional forms, where the braid is run on the lines of the design with invisible stitches with cotton thread that matches or harmonizes in color. At the angles and corners the braid is turned over and fastened down by a stitch. One color or a pretty combination may be used, and large open spaces are then dotted with French knots or covered with other embroidery stitches. Sometimes spangles that are said to be washable are used. —[New York Post.

TWO GIRLS WHO ARE BUTCHERS.

There are two young women near Chester, Ill., whose widowed mother still runs the farm, who don male attire and plough, harrow, sow and reap with as much skill and certainty of success as if the work had been performed by males.

Of all the occupations thus crocheted upon by the fair ones, the slaughter house would seem to offer the most uninviting field for women, yet two young Chester women the other day "skinned a beef" and divided it into halves with as much skill

and despatch as most butchers. They are the daughters of Simon Lvng. As Mr. Lvng was a butcher it occurred to him that women might be butchers as well as men. In consequence of his logic his two daughters, Mary and Carrie, both handsome young girls of 16 and 19, of robust health and splendid physique, do nearly all the work in the slaughter house. The old gentleman draws the steer into the place of execution and deals it a blow which lays it full length, and then leaves the rest to the girls, while he goes to town and attends to his retail business. —[New York World.

MASAI WOMEN.

The Masai tribe, dwellers in Chaga between the coast and Kilimanjaro, Africa, are reputed the fiercest and most warlike on the eastern side of that continent. They recognize no law, and are looked upon with terror by all the surrounding tribes. They are cattle stealers, freebooters and raiders.

The Masai women are ill made, angular features, but very strong and fleet. Their poor development is doubtless owing to the fact that they are loaded down with coils of brass and iron wire, which are put on them while they are yet girls, often to the amount of 10, 50 and even 60 pounds in weight. These they never take off, and as the girls grow their ornaments become imbedded in their flesh.

With such a weight no young woman could reach her highest physical development. Truly there are follies of fashion worse even than corsets and trained skirts, and a woman need not necessarily become civilized to be a suffering votary of Dame Fashion.

The regulation dress of a Masai woman of high degree consists of eight metal spiral coils and a metal coil collar, supplemented by as many brass and pewter necklets as she can afford, so that her lover may literally call her a jewel.

All the adornment is set off by several pounds of beads and metal trinkets, which she wears in all sorts of curious and feminine fancies. In some places they fasten bone ornaments into their hair and wear a band across the forehead with a bead or metal fringe over the eyes, which forms a truly gorgeous "bang." Usually they wear a skirt of cowhide and sometimes a second hide as a cloak, unless she can afford one of monkey, goat or sheepskin.

They paint their faces, as do the men, in white and red spots, and sometimes don a cowhide hood trimmed on the edges with blue or green glass rings, leaving their ears exposed to show the heavy Catherine wheel earrings. They have a wooden ear stretcher with which they elongate the lobes of their ears until they reach the shoulder—the longer the more beautiful.

The Masai men being constantly at war, their women act as purveyors and are allowed to pass unmolested between tribes. —[Boston Herald.

FASHION NOTES.

Many cloth and silk dresses are of violet shades.

Tan box coats with large pearl buttons are worn.

Many jet ornaments are used for dressy bonnets.

Changeable moires have small satin designs.

New bridal gowns are of tulle covered with tiny dots.

Many short cravats and long boas of brown fur are worn.

Lace jacket vests are suitable for wearing with any gown.

Everything is plaid these days, and stockings come in the list.

Bronze kid promises once more to be fashionable for dressy slippers and low shoes.

Silk blouse bodices for the house are quite elaborate, many showing yokes of lace or velvet.

Russian gowns are the most popular things for trimming, and, incidentally, about the most expensive.

Floral bandeaux like those worn in the time of the First Empire promise to be worn with evening toilets this season.

The new-shaped skirt is called the Empire, and is specially adapted to be worn with short, round bodices. It is cut in four pieces, two straight ones, without seams, for the front and back, the latter being on an average three inches longer, and two triangular pieces for the side gores, which are made from a straight narrow breadth, with edges cut off in a point towards the waist. It is capably suited for a walking suit.

Any bicyclist traveling into France will have to pay the regular duty of fifteen or twenty dollars on his machine, according to weight.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

There are many cases in which 1000 horse power and more has been exerted by locomotives.

To clean articles of paper-mache, wash them with a little lukewarm water and soap and rub them vigorously with sweet oil.

A green rock has recently been discovered in large quantities at Borzanese, in Liguria. The most curious feature about it is that it possesses distinct polar magnetism.

A Lancashire, England, manufacturer recently took from an electric light main the power to run a weaving loom, and there is a prospect that such looms may be set up in the weaver's homes.

It is asserted that waterproof sheets of paper, gummed and hydraulically compressed, makes a material as durable as leather for the soles of shoes. It also makes serviceable horsehoes.

Bron Leon de Lenzval of Nies offers a prize of \$600 to the inventor of the best application of the principles of the microphone in the construction of a portable apparatus for the improvement of hearing in deaf persons.

The Brazilian pottery tree contains such a large percentage of silica as to make it ashes a valuable ingredient in pottery making. When green its wood cuts like soft sandstone. To the botanist it is known as *Mequilloa utilis*.

M. G. Bonner has subjected young trees to the influence of the electric light in the Halles Centrales, Paris, and finds that when continuously applied it retards the formation of the vegetable tissues, and gives rise to considerable modifications of structure in the leaves and shoots.

The water spider, that spends so much of its time under water, carries a bubble of air for breathing on the under side of its body, and when the air is exhausted it comes to the surface for more. It is enabled to carry the air bubble because the under side of its body is covered with tiny hairs set so close together that the surface film of the water does not pass them, although the air does, and thus the air is imprisoned among the hairs.

Tennyson's Mesmeric Powers.

Tennyson had extraordinary mesmeric powers, says the Boston Herald's correspondent. He went, as a young man, with his wife, to some country inn, and soon after his arrival a doctor called, who, having introduced himself, said: "I am here with a lady who is suffering from severe physical ailments, and I want you to come and try your mesmeric passes on her, because I am quite convinced that you have strong mesmeric powers." Tennyson laughed at this, but he went with the doctor, who showed him how to make the passes, and he found that he had the power and that it exercised a very beneficial influence on the suffering lady. Afterward, when he went into the room, the patient would fall into a mesmeric sleep almost before he began his passes on her. After the parties left the inn, they did not meet for some years, and Tennyson did not recognize the doctor until reminded of the circumstances by the latter, who further said: "Do you know you saved the lady's life, and she is now my wife."

Seneca's Prophecy Fulfilled.

Nineteen hundred years ago Strabo, the Roman geographer, basing his reasoning on mathematical grounds, stated that land would be discovered in which Atlantis was supposed to lie, and in the middle of the first Christian century Seneca, a Roman poet, published some verses, which is, perhaps, the most circumstantially accurate prophecy ever fulfilled. Their translation runs as follows: "Time will come, as years roll by, when ocean will unclasp the bonds of Nature, and a great land will be discovered, and the sea will disclose new climes, and Thule be no longer the last land on earth." That this prophecy points directly to America is indicated by the fact that in the days of Seneca, Ultima Thule, or the Western Islands, was then considered the last land on earth. —[New York Advertiser.

Milk as a Dressing for Wounds.

Milk has been found to contain remarkable healing qualities if applied to wounds in an early stage, and excellent results have been obtained by its use in the dressing of burns. Compresses are soaked in milk and laid on the burn, to be renewed night and morning. An extensive burn has in this way been reduced in three days to one-quarter of its original size. Another burn, which had been treated for eight days with olive oil and oxide of zinc, healed rapidly under a milk dressing. —[Detroit Free Press.